

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for evaluating network access arrangements from an alternate
2 access connection, comprising the steps of:
3 downloading a test through a network backbone to a network that will
4 produce a virtual private network (VPN) for a user to simulate interactions with the VPN
5 and the alternate access connection;
6 comparing results of the test that has been downloaded to benchmarks for
7 the test that could be run on a set of access connections to the backbone from other than
8 an alternate access connection; and
9 reporting the results of the comparison.
- 1 2. The method recited in claim 1, wherein the benchmarks comprise a
2 member of the group consisting essentially of Internet web page fetches, Intranet web
3 page fetches, form processing, mail fetches, Service Access Point (SAP) transactions,
4 PeopleSoft transactions, queries to Internet servers, and voice over IP (VoIP).
- 1 3. The method recited in claim 2, further comprising the step of providing
2 the results of the comparison to customers of the VPN.
- 1 4. The method recited in claim 3, further comprising the step of retesting the
2 VPN to characterize raw throughput of data.
- 1 5. The method recited in claim 4, wherein the comparing step comprises the
2 step of downloading the benchmarks through a set of leased lines.
- 1 6. The method recited in claim 4, wherein the comparing step comprises the
2 step of downloading the benchmarks through access connections comprising leased lines
3 and modems.
- 1 7. The method recited in claim 6, further comprising the step of improving
2 access to the VPN for customers of the VPN based on the comparison.
- 1 8. A method for improving access to a virtual private network (VPN),
2 comprising the steps of:
3 simulating interactions with the VPN from access by an alternate access
4 connection by downloading a test through a network that will produce the VPN and

5 comparing results of the test with a benchmark for the test that would have connected to
6 the VPN through access connections other than from an alternate access connection; and
7 adjusting access to the VPN as a result of the comparisons made.

1 9. The method recited in claim 8, wherein the simulating step comprises the
2 steps of:

3 downloading a test through a network backbone to a network that will
4 produce the VPN for a user to simulate interactions with the VPN and the alternate access
5 connection; and

6 comparing results of the test that has been downloaded to benchmarks for
7 the test that could be run on a set of access connections to the backbone from other than
8 an alternate access connection.

1 10. The method recited in claim 9, wherein the benchmarks comprise a
2 member of the group consisting essentially of Internet web page fetches, Intranet web
3 page fetches, form processing, mail fetches, Service Access Point (SAP) transactions,
4 PeopleSoft transactions, queries to Internet servers, and voice over IP (VoIP).

1 11. The method recited in claim 10, further comprising the step of providing
2 the results of the comparison to customers of the VPN.

1 12. The method recited in claim 11, further comprising the step of retesting
2 the VPN to characterize raw throughput of data.

1 13. The method recited in claim 12, wherein the comparing step comprises the
2 step of downloading the benchmarks through a set of leased lines.

1 14. The method recited in claim 12, wherein the comparing step comprises the
2 step of downloading the benchmarks through access connections comprising leased lines
3 and modems.